

Livestock & Dairy

In 2004, Wisconsin maintained its second place ranking in milk production and accounted for 13 percent of the nation's total production. Milk production declined slightly to 22.1 billion pounds, while milk cow numbers, at 1.24 million, were 1 percent lower than the previous year. However, the value of production increased to \$3.73 billion and cash receipts rose to \$3.69 billion, both 30 percent jumps from 2003. The increase was primarily due to a 31 percent change in milk prices, which averaged \$16.90 per hundredweight in 2004, compared to \$12.90 a year earlier.

Wisconsin maintained its lead as top cheese producer, contributing 27 percent of the nation's 8.88 billion pounds produced. Total cheese production continued to climb, reaching 2.36 billion pounds in 2004, a 4 percent jump. American-type cheeses increased 4 percent from a year earlier to 860 million pounds, while Italian-type cheese rose 2 percent to 1.06 billion pounds. Mozzarella led the way with 34 percent of the total production and 76 percent of the Italian production.

Wisconsin remained second in butter production, with a 3 percent jump to 319 million pounds. The state's 12 butter-producing plants accounted for 26 percent of the nation's 1.25 billion pounds.

Wisconsin repeated its 9th place inventory ranking, housing 3.35 million cattle and calves. Average slaughter prices per hundredweight for cattle rose 12 percent from a year ago to \$65, as calves surged 15 percent to \$140, 18 percent above the U.S. average of \$119. In addition, the value of production increased 16 percent to \$788 million, while cash receipts were up 13 percent to \$801 million.

As of December 1, 2004, swine inventory extended its downward slide to 430,000, a 10 percent drop from a year earlier. Production fell 13 percent to 207 million pounds. On the other hand, the average price per hundredweight jumped 25 percent to \$46.30, increasing value of production by 14 percent. Wisconsin kept its 16th place ranking in hog receipts, even with a 12 percent climb to \$119 million.

As of January 1, 2005, sheep and lamb inventory increased slightly to 85,000 head. The average price per hundredweight for lambs increased 6 percent to \$92.50. The total value of sheep and lambs rose 19 percent to \$14.4 million.



Egg production rebounded from its fall in 2003, by increasing 6 percent to 1.21 billion eggs for the year ending November 30, 2004. Egg prices dropped 4 percent to 56.4 cents per dozen, compared with 58.7 cents in 2003. However, value of production totaled \$56.7 million, a 2 percent hike from the previous year's \$55.6 million.

Broiler production totaled 33.8 million in 2004, down slightly from 2003's 34.4 million. Value of production climbed considerably to \$68.4 million, a 26 percent jump. The price per pound, at 45 cents, gained 10 cents.

For 2004, trout distributed for restoration, conservation, and recreational purposes numbered 4.97 million, down 41 percent from last year's totals. This was met by a 14 percent decrease in value to \$1.77 million. On the bright side, Wisconsin ranked 6th in trout sales for 2004. Trout sales increased 14 percent from 2003, totaling 1.09 million fish, with collective sales of \$1.47 million.

Wisconsin remained the largest mink pelt-producing state in the United States, accounting for 30 percent of total pelt production. For 2004, Wisconsin pelt production totaled 768,000 pelts, a 9 percent increase from 2003. The average marketing price for pelts across the nation was \$48.30, a 21 percent hike from 2003.

Honey production rose 3 percent from 2003 to 5.85 million pounds. The yield per colony increased from 77 to 86 lbs., a 12 percent jump. However, this growth was met with a 14 cent drop in prices to \$1.33 per pound. The value of production fell 7 percent to \$7.78 million.